THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) A proposal to transfer the Delhi Transport Corporation, Delhi Milk Scheme and Super Bazar to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is under active consideration. There is also a proposal to place the Delhi Electircity Supply Undertaking under the administrative control of the Government of NCT of Delhi. The Transfer of these organisations would improve the delivery of civic services in Delhi.

(c) to (e) The Government of NCT of Delhi has represented for a share in the Central Taxes for funding their Annual Plans. The matter is under examination.

Rail Link from Gadwal to Kopal

1535. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govenment are aware that since Nizam's Government one rail line proposal between Gadwal to Kopal is pending;

(b) whether Government have received a Memorandum in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Elections to Bodoland Autonomous Council

1536. SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hold elections to the Bodoland Autonomous Council in terms of the accord arrived at with the Bodo Leaders and the State Government;

(b) if so, the tentative schedule thereof; and

(c) whether the Government also propose to hold dialogue with various factions of the Bodo leaders with a view to speed up the process of elections and if so, the time by which the dialogue is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The elections to the Bodoland Autonomous Council are to be held by the State Govenment.

The State Government had decided to hold elections to the Bodoland Autonomous council in December 1995. However, the elections were deferred by the State Government in view of the representations made by some Bodo groups. No fresh date for elections has been announced by the State Government.

The Central Government welcomes all good suggestions which facilitate the democratic process.

Prevention of Cruelties to Animals

1537. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of laws on transportation of livestock from one place to other with regard to their number, arrangement for providing fodder and water etc. they are loaded like sardines and some even die during transportations; and

(b) if so, the preventive measures being taken by the Government to implement the prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Attention of this Ministry has been drawn from time to time on cruelty inflicted on animals while transporting. Following steps have been taken for effective implementation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:

(i) Animal Welfare Board has taken up training programme for members of Society for prevention of Cruelty to Animals and also taken up steps to create public awareness.

(ii) State Governments are pursued to nominate nodal officers for coordinating animal welfare activities.

(iii) Financial support is extended to Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to enable them to step up their animal welfare activities and take up prosecutions.

(iv) State Governments have been advised to set up State Advisory Welfare Board.

Frequency of Rajdhani Express

1538. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run Hazrat Nizamudin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express daily instead of weekly;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to extend Trivandrum-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express up to New Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b). There are no such proposals at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Operational and resources constraints.

Group Insurance Scheme for Fishermen

1539. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance coverage under Group Insurance Scheme for fishermen has been introduced;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to enchance the insurance coverage; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HASBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b). A Centrally sponsored Scheme for providing free insurance cover to fishermen has been in operation since 1982-83. A fisherman is insured for a sum of Rs.25,000/- against dealth or permanent disbility and for a sum of Rs.12,500/- against partial disability.

(c) The issue of enhancing the insurance cover was raised by the Government of Kerala and by some other State Governments at the 19th Meeting of the Central Board of Fisheries which was held at New Delhi on 18th October, 1994.

(d) It has been tentatively decided to enhance the insurance cover to Rs 35,000/- in case of death and permanent disability and to Rs. 12,500/- in case of partial disability.

[Translation]

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1540. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) the amount deposited by the Union Carbide in the Supreme Court for payment of compensation to the gas victims.

(b) the amount out of the above given to the Welfare Commissioner Bhopal;

(c) whether the amount lying with the Supreme Court includes interest amount too; and

(d) whether the Welfare Commissioner had delayed the payment of compensation to the gas victims and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) US $ 470 million which included payment of US $ 45 million made in rupee equivalent amount was deposited by the Union Carbide. The entire amount along with interest was released in favour of the Welfare Commissioner on 16.10.92 for payment of compensation. The amount is withdrawn and paid as compensation upto 31.05.96. Settlement of claims and payment of compensation is an on-going process.

[English]

Replacement of Bogies

1541. SHRI RAMESH CHENITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the trains in Kerala run with the old bogies; and

(b) if so, the action being taken to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) passenger coaches have a useful economic life of about 285 years. At any time, therefore, passenger services, including those running in Kerala, will have coaches of mixed vintage. The coaches are, however, given regular maintenance attention to keep them in good fettle.

(b) Coaches are replaced on age-cum-condition basis.

Stoppage at New Coochbehar

1542. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of requests received for providing a stoppage of New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at New Coochbehar during the current year till date;

(b) whether any action has been taken on these requests so far,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some requests have been received in this regard.

(b) to (d) These requests have been duly examined and the stoppage has not been found justified having regard to the importance of the Rajdhani Express.

Pollution

1543. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether depsite three Pollution control Acts, various kinds of pullution in rivers, cities, and underground water is increasing,

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the further effective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?